

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

To transfer push service traffic efficiently, a packet is given a content identifier for identifying the content of the packet, or is given one or both of this 5 content identifier and a category identifier for identifying the category to which the content belongs; and a user registers in advance in the distribution network content identifier related information or one or both of this content identifier related information and category identifier related information, said information relating to content and/or categories that the user wishes to have 10 sent; and the distribution network passes content, or one or both of content and category, wanted by a downstream user. A table for filtering is set by taking into account content identifier related information that has been notified by a user. To make effective use of memory resources in the table in each node of the distribution network, a content identifier, or one or both of a content identifier 15 and a category identifier, that has been registered in the table but which has become unnecessary, is deleted. Moreover, to ensure that a decrease in throughput at some packet distribution destinations does not affect the throughput of the entire network, means is provided for temporarily storing a packet at a transit node, so that when a packet transfer destination is 20 experiencing decreased throughput, a decrease in throughput at transit nodes upstream of the site of the throughput decrease can be avoided by storing packets in this temporary storage means.